

The Generalist

YOUR VOICE FOR EXCELLENCE
THROUGH EDUCATION & ADVOCACY

**New Year
New Opportunities
With Your AGD**



WINTER 2025

WWW.MARYLAND-AGD.ORG

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**Bright smiles start here—
Count how many tooth 
symbols are in this edition
of The Generalist and
enter to win a prize!
Scan the QR code
to register**



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www.maryland-agd.org



Editor's Corner

Happy New Year, MAGD Members!

I hope you all have had a wonderful holiday season full of special occasions and happy memories with friends and family. It is hard to believe that another year is gone and we once again have turned the calendar to January. Time flies faster every year, it seems. This should remind us all to slow down just a little and enjoy all the moments of our lives.

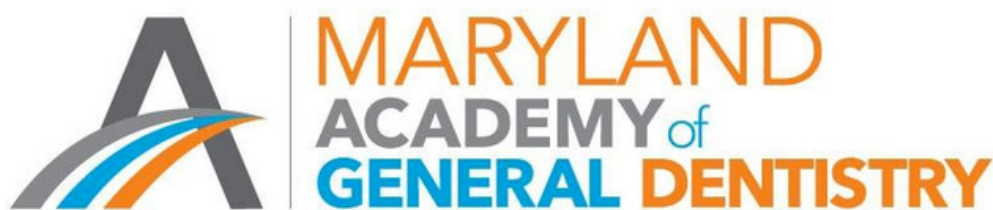
As we look back, this past year was a busy one for your Maryland Academy of General Dentistry. There have been many outstanding continuing education courses as well as events supporting the University of Maryland dental students and new dentists. For me, though, the highlight was in November when, for the first time, I joined members of our Region 5 delegation at the AGD House of Delegates Annual Meeting in Chicago. Not only did we all enjoy rekindling old friendships and making new ones, our participation in the governance activities of the AGD was fascinating, educational, and rewarding.

Without a doubt, I learned more about AGD and its benefit to our profession during that weekend than I had in my 20+ years as a member. The dedication of our volunteer leaders is truly remarkable – thousands of hours are given to preserve our common goals and the well-being of our members.

As we look ahead to the new year, I would challenge each of you to consider contributing something of yourself – whether it would be serving as a mentor to a new dentist, participating in a charitable event, or perhaps serving as a committee member. There are so many ways that we can each do something to help lighten the load of others. As John Heywood, a 16th century writer said, “many hands make light work.” You may find rewards in ways you never expected. 

Cheers to 2025!

***Jean J. Carlson, DDS, MAGD
Vice President and Editor***



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FROM THE PRESIDENT



STEVEN G. FELDMAN, DDS

As the new President of the Maryland Academy of General Dentistry, I am thrilled to serve an organization that plays a vital role in promoting excellence and lifelong learning in our profession. Our collective dedication to continuing education and advocacy empowers us to provide the highest standard of care to our patients and ensures the voice of general dentists is heard both locally and nationally.

Maryland AGD remains steadfast in its mission to offer top-tier continuing education tailored to the needs of general dentists. This year, we are excited to expand our offerings, featuring a dynamic lineup of speakers and hands-on workshops designed to enhance your skills and knowledge. Whether you're pursuing Fellowship, Mastership, or simply looking to enrich your expertise, our programs are here to support your journey.

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**SPEAKER
SERIES**

MARITIME CONFERENCE CENTER

Integrative Dental Medicine

7L CE | AGD 180 Mayofacial Pain
with **Dr. DeWitt Wilkerson**

Register Now!

**JAN
24**

Seeing erosive wear on patients' teeth? Are patients presenting with bruxism, sore muscles and headaches? Are they sleeping poorly, fatigued, snoring? Is it your responsibility to help them... join us to learn how!

www.maryland-agd.org/2025speakerSeries

FEATURE ARTICLE

The Fortunes of our Profession

BY ROBERT WILSON, JR., DDS



It has been 39 years since I graduated from WVU School of Dentistry. Without hesitation I can say that I have never had a day of practice that included wishing that 5:00 would hurry up and arrive. I have enjoyed my profession immensely. I have been blessed with the opportunity to practice with my father and now my partner is my daughter.

The joy and satisfaction of our profession goes well beyond the operatory and the patient interactions. The camaraderie and personal bonds are formed with colleagues as well as caring and loyal coworkers.

Our esteemed editor asked me to share some of my experiences in organized dentistry. While flattered by the ask, I am not sure if she believes I have something worth talking about or maybe she just realizes that I have been around for a long time! I have been blessed with many opportunities to serve segments of our professional organizations. I have enjoyed the good fortune of interacting with great leaders and in watching them, I have learned valuable lessons. I now count them as some of my closest friends. My hope is to share with you some quotes and one – liners that have helped guide me in choices and decisions. This article is almost as if I was offering some dental fortune cookies with a few of these quips on the little pieces of paper. So, I will share some of my favorite and cite the source when known to me. I hope you enjoy, can relate to some of these and perhaps find a little humor too.

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**We have a moral obligation
to the generations that
follow us to maintain our
profession so that the
generations that follow us
will enjoy the good fortune
that defines our profession
today.**

“The price of freedom is eternal vigilance.” This quote has been attributed to Thomas Jefferson (first known written use) as well as Patrick Henry. Both were American Revolutionary War era patriots. These words are as true today as they were 250 years ago. And they poignantly apply to our profession today. There is a constant procession of small vocal groups that seek to alter our profession in ways that are detrimental to our patients, staff, and families. Often, they are well intentioned, but lack the insight of the practicing dentist to make informed decisions and recommendations.

There are regulatory agencies that demand an ever-increasing oversight role in the operations of our offices. It is a constant struggle to maintain the independence, autonomy and responsibility that describes a profession. That is why organized dentistry is indispensable. The AGD not only provides high quality educational opportunities, but it maintains a constant vigilance regarding the political and regulatory bodies that interface with our profession.

The reason we hold a special place of respect and trust in society is because dentists, by and large, are ethical practitioners and because we are well represented by our professional associations. Today dentistry is the most respected of all the classic learned professions. We owe a collective debt of gratitude to the generations that have preceded us.

Further, we have a moral obligation to the generations that follow us to maintain our profession so that the generations that follow us will enjoy the good fortune that defines our profession today.

“Fortune favors the prepared mind.”

One of my favorites, this bit of wisdom is attributed to Louis Pasteur. Ben Franklin said, “I am a strong believer in luck and I find the harder I work the more I have of it.” Hoping for good luck is not a strategy for success. Make your luck with diligent pursuit of your goals.

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News from REGION5

BY ERIC MORSE, DDS
REGION 5 DIRECTOR



ANNUAL
MEETING

The Academy of General Dentistry wrapped up its 2024 House of Delegates (HOD) meeting in November. Dr. George Schmidt was elected as the AGD Vice President, bringing his extensive leadership experience and dedication to advancing general dentistry to this new role.

AGD INSTALLS NEW PRESIDENT

Chethan Chetty, DDS, MAGD



Additionally, Dr. Chethan Chetty of California was installed as the new AGD President. We are excited about their leadership as they guide AGD into 2025 and beyond.

During the HOD, there was a robust discussion on AGD's governance structure. While the evaluation of potential changes is ongoing, no structural changes were presented for a vote this year. As such, the HOD governance structure remains unchanged for now. Stay tuned for updates.

This year, AGD introduced the Constituent Recognition Program (CRP), designed to spotlight and celebrate the incredible achievements of our constituents. The CRP seeks to highlight grassroots efforts, innovative initiatives, and outstanding contributions through AGD meetings, newsletters, local constituent events, and other platforms.

Do you know of a person, program, or initiative that deserves recognition? Nominate them today! Share your suggestions with us to ensure their accomplishments are celebrated across the AGD community. Email your nominations or suggestions to contact@maryland-agd.org. *Continued on page 11*

Finally, mark your calendars and register [here](#)! On March 7, 2025, join us at Martin's Crosswinds in Greenbelt, MD, for the Region 5 Annual Continuing Education Meeting. Renowned speaker, Dr. Sam Shamardi, will present “Surgery for the GP,” a must-attend session for all general practitioners seeking to enhance their surgical expertise. Don’t miss this opportunity for top-notch education and networking! We look forward to seeing you at future AGD events and continuing to celebrate the incredible work of our members. Together, we are advancing general dentistry every day! 🦷

**AGD Region 5
Presents**

28TH ANNUAL CDE MEETING

**SURGERY FOR THE GP:
REGENERATION, STABILIZATION
& TROUBLESHOOTING**

featuring Dr. Sam Shamardi

FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2025
Martin's Crosswinds, Greenbelt





FROM THE PRESIDENT

In addition to education, advocacy remains a cornerstone of our work. Through the efforts of our Legislative Affairs Committee and national partnerships, we are actively engaged in shaping policies that protect and promote the interests of general dentists and our patients. I encourage each of you to get involved in initiatives like Dentist Day and to stay informed about legislative matters affecting our profession.

Looking ahead, we are committed to fostering a vibrant and supportive community. We invite you to share your feedback, suggestions, and ideas as we strive to meet the evolving needs of our members. Together, we can build a stronger, more connected dental community in Maryland.

It is an honor to serve as your President. Thank you for your dedication to our profession and your continued support of Maryland AGD. I look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming events and hearing how we can better serve you. Here's to an exciting year ahead! 🦷

Transforming Lives Through Dentistry

BY JANET YELLOWITZ, DMD
PRESIDENT, MARYLAND FOUNDATION OF DENTISTRY

For 35 years, the Maryland Foundation of Dentistry (MFD) has been a beacon of hope, delivering life-changing dental care to low-income adults with disabilities who have no other options for treatment. Thanks to our incredible network of volunteer dentists, we're able to provide essential services to Maryland residents suffering from severe dental issues—many of whom face life-threatening complications if untreated.

MFD's mission extends far beyond just improving oral health; it's about giving patients a renewed chance at life. Some of the individuals we serve are unable to receive critical cancer treatments or organ transplants due to oral infections. Our work ensures they can move forward with these lifesaving procedures.

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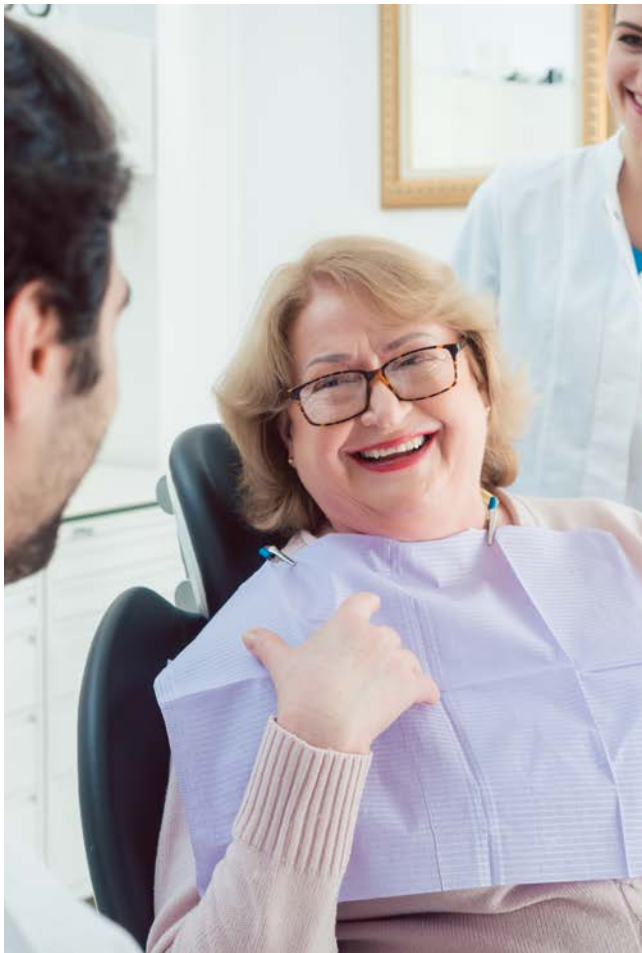
A Legacy of Impact

Since its inception, MFD has served over 14,000 patients, providing more than \$26 million worth of dental treatment and laboratory services. While these achievements are extraordinary, the need continues to grow.

Service wait times—ranging from three months to two years—highlight the urgent necessity to expand our network of volunteer dentists throughout the state. [Join here](#)

Volunteer oral surgeons are also in high demand, as their expertise is critical to addressing complex cases.

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The Power of Your Participation

To those of you already part of MFD's Donated Dental Services program:

Thank You! Your generosity is transforming lives. From fillings and extractions to root canals, dentures, and crowns, your work restores not just smiles but also confidence and dignity. Pro bono oral cancer screenings and discounted laboratory services from our partner labs further enhance the care we provide. The impact of your contributions resonates deeply with our patients.

"This program is a light in a time of darkness. You've given me hope and help when I needed it most. Thank you."



And it's not just patients who are profoundly moved. One of our volunteer dentists reflected:

"The most gratifying moment was delivering a partial denture to a patient who hadn't had front teeth for years. Seeing her happy tears was unforgettable."

Beyond the immeasurable satisfaction of giving back, participating dentists can earn up to 8 continuing education (CE) credits per renewal period through MFD's Donated Dental Services program.

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**SPEAKER
SERIES**



SALIVA SECRETS

*The Diagnostic Keys to
Periodontal & Systemic Diseases*

with Lora Hooper, BSDH, RDH, EFDA

MAY 16, 2025

7L CE | AGD 490 Periodontics

Universities at Shady Grove

Register Now!

www.maryland-agd.org/2025speakerseries

Take Action in 2025

Join us in changing lives, one smile at a time. If you're already part of our network, we encourage you to invite a colleague to join us. Together, we can amplify the heart of dentistry and reach even more Maryland residents in need.

Visit www.mfd-dds.org to learn more about how you can get involved. Let's work together to ensure that everyone, regardless of their circumstances, can access the dental care they deserve. 🦷

Greetings from the Membership Committee!

JOJO MANATO, DDS
CHAIR, MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Being a member of the Maryland Academy of General Dentistry is one of the most beneficial decisions you can make to enrich your dental career and enhance your professional life. The following are some valuable membership benefits, which are also the main reasons why I'm a member of MAGD.

- Convenient tracking tool to submit CE courses for your licensing board transcript. Just copy your CE and submit it to the Board of Dentistry for license renewal.
- High quality continuing education resources. We have a Speaker's Series featuring several courses throughout the year from leading clinicians, as well as hands-on Participation Series courses.
- Advocacy on issues important to General Dentistry.
- Professional networking.

Based on Maryland AGD Constituent Membership statistics, we have 21 new members for the last reporting period, which gave us a 4.7% increase as compared to a 0.2% increase from the previous quarter. At the dental student level, there are a total of 47 members as of September 2024.

Please urge your friends or colleagues to join us in the only organization dedicated to serving the interests and professional needs of general dentists! 🦷

"ALONE WE CAN DO SO LITTLE, TOGETHER WE CAN DO SO MUCH." - H. KELLER



MSDA



Maryland State Dental Association

2025 Dentist Day

2.19.2025

**GOVERNOR CALVERT HOUSE
HISTORIC INNS OF ANNAPOLIS**

ANNAPOLIS, MD

Legislative Update

THOMAS A'BECKET, DDS
CHAIR, MSDA LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

The Maryland State Dental Association is hosting its annual "Dentist Day in Annapolis" on Wednesday, February 19, 2025. This is our profession's opportunity to meet with our elected officials in Annapolis and advocate for policies that can improve the health of our patients and our practices.

We will get an early start to the day to eat breakfast, receive an update from our government affairs team, and hear from legislators. Then, we will break off into teams and visit our local legislators to discuss issues. Lastly, we gather again to recap meetings, share important information, and enjoy lunch.

Undoubtedly there will be any number of areas to discuss, however, we have three main areas of focus this year.

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The MSDA makes the process as easy as possible and will provide you with the resources and information you need to be successful. Register early [here](#) to take advantage of the pre-Dentist Day webinars.

- **Temporary Licensure for Dentists, Hygienists, and Radiation Technologists** – This legislation would establish temporary Maryland licensure under special circumstances for out-of-state dentists, hygienists and radiation technologists by specifying requirements and criteria that must be met by both the out-of-state practitioner and the sponsoring dentist in line with the Maryland Dental Practice Act.
- **Education Requirements for Expanded Function Dental Assistants** – This legislation would make a small change to the educational requirements for the expanded function dental assistant. This change is necessary to ensure that certain on-line courses of study are available in Maryland to help train the new category of dental assistants.
- **Dent-Care Loan Assistance Repayment Program** – As the state realizes the largest deficit in years, it will have a dramatic impact on the legislative activities of the Maryland General Assembly this year and in the foreseeable future. This budget will make it necessary to fight for the Dent-Care Loan Assistance Repayment Program, which helps dentists who treat the state's most vulnerable populations, especially in underserved areas. The funding for the program was increased last year and included hygienists for the first time.

In addition, as we continue to fight the anti-fluoride movement, we will be spending time and resources on educating legislators so they can help be messengers in their communities about the importance of fluoridated water.

We look forward to having you join us for Dentist Day in Annapolis to advance oral health care in Maryland and the dental profession. 🦷



2025 PARTICIPATION SERIES

IMMERSIVE, IN-DEPTH LEARNING

- ✓ SPRING PROGRAM APRIL 4 - 5
- ✓ FALL PROGRAM OCTOBER 17 - 18

TAKE YOUR PRACTICE
TO THE
NEXT
LEVEL



“The state of the art of dentistry has evolved in tremendous ways”

“Keep your axe sharp.” This is from a story I was told by one of my early mentors. There were two neighbors splitting wood one day. The one neighbor worked with out rest for the entire day. He noticed that the other neighbor would often take breaks. At the end of the day, the neighbor who had taken breaks had split considerably more wood than the other neighbor. He commented to the neighbor that he had worked all day with no rest and yet he had split less wood than his neighbor who took several breaks to rest. The neighbor replied, I was not resting, I was sharpening my axe.

We all have the obligation to keep our knowledge and skills current to offer the best to our patients. The state of the art of dentistry has evolved in tremendous ways since the time I graduated.

Much of what has kept my “axe sharp” has been educational opportunities provided by the AGD.

Many of the materials and techniques I employ today were not learned during my years in dental school but in my post doctorate continuing education.

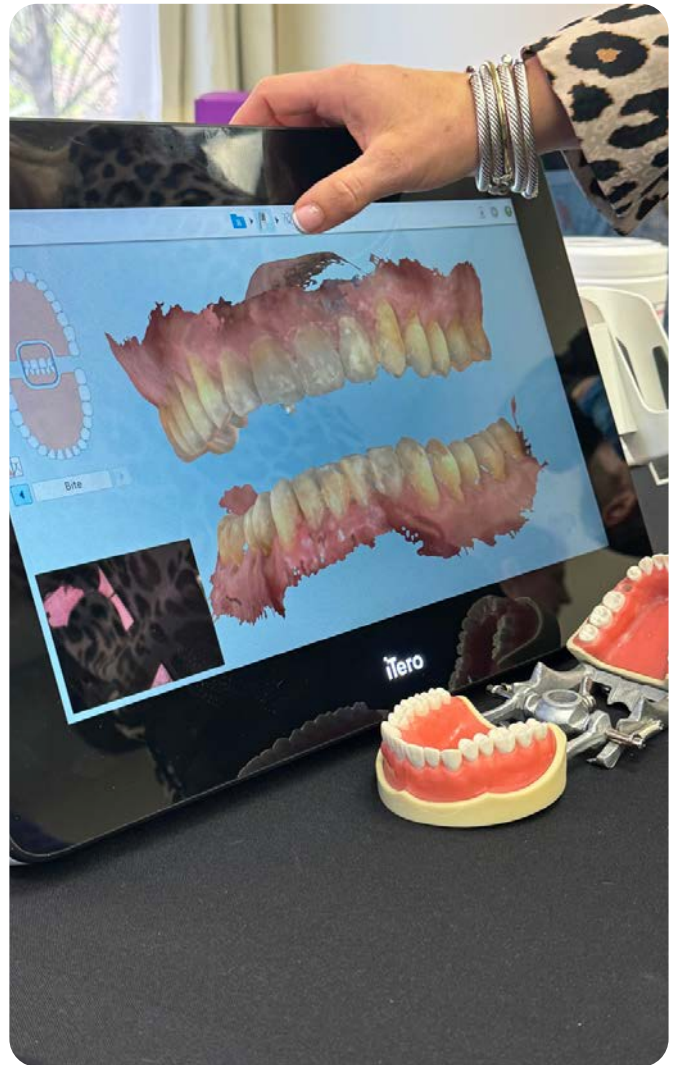


“Don’t be the first to buy the latest technology and don’t be the last.” From my instructor, Dr. Thomas. I always recall this advice when considering the “latest and greatest” new gadget or device. It has saved me a lot of money over the years!

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“A smart person learns from their mistakes, a wise person learns from the mistakes of others.” These are my own words, but not an original thought. My father was very active in organized dentistry for most of his career. In his later years, he would often ask about what was going on in the world of organized dentistry. I was often amazed that many of the hot button topics of today, are the same agenda items of decades past. George Santyana, philosopher and writer, was famously quoted by Winston Churchill in 1948 when he said “Those who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat its mistakes.” Don’t discount the old guard, they have much value to share.

We have the good fortune to be dentists



“Getting started is half done.” This one I found on a fortune cookie. It complements the famous quote from the inspirational Ben Franklin “Don’t put off until tomorrow what you can do today.” When faced with a daunting task, the most challenging part is to get started. Once you do, the task immediately becomes less difficult. It is easy to live by the axiom of why put off until tomorrow what you can do the day after. But, when you do, your tomorrows become just like your yesterdays.

Never refuse a breath mint! This is one of the strict rules in life that I follow. The other is never refuse money! No further elaboration is necessary. I hope that you will find some value in these sayings as you pursue your career in dentistry and your participation in organized dentistry. They have helped keep me on track numerous times. But it is never all about accomplishment. Always take time to enjoy life and those you associate with in all endeavors you pursue. I offer a final Ben Franklin quote with the pursuit of leisure in mind. “In wine there is wisdom, in beer there is freedom, in water there is bacteria.” 🍷

Maryland AGD Welcomes Our Newest Members!

Omar Hamdy Abdelwahab, DDS
Laurel, MD

Jibreel Ali
Crofton, MD

Imani Asher
Silver Spring, MD

Rajinder S. Bhullar, DDS
Fort Washington, MD

Luke Bollinger
Bel Air, MD

Katherine Nicole Brice
Baltimore, MD

Khanh Do
Clarksburg, MD

Marina Anguelova Fileva
Derwood, MD

Ameer Hadi, DMD
Chantilly, VA

Anam Khalid, DDS
Owings Mills, MD

Emily Liu
Ellicott City, MD

Khatereh (Kate) Nematollahi
Bethesda, MD

Jihye Park
Rockville, MD

Jennifer Flores Pena
Fort Washington, MD

Sarah So
Clinton, MD

Gabriella Summa
Baltimore, MD

Callan Wagner
Crownsville, MD

Courtney Danielle Williams
Hope Mills, NC

**SPEAKER
SERIES**

DECEMBER 5



KEYS TO ESTHETIC & PROSTHETIC SUCCESS WITH DENTAL IMPLANTS

7L CE | AGD 670 FIXED PROSTHODONTICS

WITH BRIAN GOODACRE, DDS

MARITIME CONFERENCE CENTER

REGISTER